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Application No.: 10/526,787

Docket No.: JCLA16283-R

AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as indicated hereafter.

In The Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A coating apparatus including a ventilated rotating drum in which granules to be processed are accommodated and which is driven to rotate around its axial line, ~~[[and]]~~ a ventilation mechanism, and a casing accommodating said rotating drum and said ventilation mechanism therein, wherein

said rotating drum comprises one end and the other end along the direction of the axial line and a peripheral wall that connects said one end and said other end, said other end being located on the side of a rotary drive mechanism for driving said rotating drum, wherein said one end, said other end, and said peripheral wall ~~[[at]]~~ as a whole configure a vessel for accommodating said granules to be processed,

said peripheral wall has no air passage and is bare inside said casing,

said one end and said other end are respectively provided with an air vent, one of which constitutes an air inlet for supplying a process gas from outside into said rotating drum, and the other one of which constitutes an air outlet for exhausting the process gas from inside said rotating drum to the outside, when coating the granules,

said ventilation mechanism is provided at the other end of said rotating drum ~~[[for]]~~ communicating with the air vent at said other end to an air duct at a ~~preset~~ first location where the air vent at said other end overlaps a layer of the granules inside said rotating drum,

wherein the process gas supplied into said rotating drum through said air inlet ~~is-passed~~

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passes through said layer of the granules inside said rotating drum ~~to be~~ and is exhausted from said air outlet.

Claim 2. (currently amended) The coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the axial line of said rotating drum forms a preset angle θ ranging from 0° to 90° with respect to ~~[[the]]~~ a horizontal line.

Claim 3 (original) The coating apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the axial line of said rotating drum is inclined at the preset angle θ with respect to the horizontal line.

Claim 4. (original) The coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the axial line of said rotating drum is oscillatory within a preset angle range.

Claim 5. (original) The coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the air vent at the other end of said rotating drum is formed by a porous part.

Claim 6. (original) The coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the air vent at one end of said rotating drum is provided in an opening whose center coincides with the axial line of said rotating drum.

Claim 7. (cancelled)

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Claim 8. (previously presented) The coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ventilation mechanism includes a first disc plate constituting the other end of said rotating drum and having an air vent consisting of porous parts arranged in a ring shape around the axial line of said rotating drum, and a second disc plate arranged opposite said first disc plate and having a connection hole for communicating the air vent of said first disc plate to said air duct at a preset location.

Claim 9. (original) The coating apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said second disc plate is constructed slidable in the axial direction.

Claim 10. (currently amended) The coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the air vent at said other end is further ~~able to communicate~~ connected to a second air duct at a second ~~preset~~ location where the air vent at said other end overlaps an upper space above said layer of the granules inside said rotating drum, said ~~preset~~ first location and said second preset location being selectable, wherein when said second preset location is selected, the process gas flows through the upper space above said layer of the granules between the air vent at said other end at said second preset location and the air vent at said one end.

Claim 11. (cancelled)

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Claim 12. (original) The coating apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said first disc plate is provided with a product discharge part that can be opened and closed for discharging granule products inside said rotating drum to the outside.

Claim 13. (original) The coating apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said product discharge part includes an open window formed in said first disc plate and an open/close lid provided for said open window.

Claim 14. (original) The coating apparatus according to claim 13, wherein opening/closing operation of said open/close lid is associated with a movement of a movable member of an actuator and a sliding movement of said second disc plate.

Claim 15. (original) The coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the other end of said rotating drum is connected to a hollow drive shaft of the rotary drive mechanism for driving said rotating drum, and granule products inside said rotating drum are discharged to the outside through inside said hollow drive shaft.

Claim 16. (original) The coating apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said hollow drive shaft is provided with an open/close lid for opening and closing an opening at one shaft end facing the inside of said rotating drum.

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Claim 17. (original) The coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the peripheral wall of said rotating drum is shaped such that its diameter increases gradually from said one end and from said other end toward the center in the axial direction, and a cross-sectional plane of said peripheral wall containing a large diameter part is inclined with respect to the axial line at a preset angle.

Claim 18. (original) The coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the peripheral wall of said rotating drum includes an inwardly protruding baffle, and an inner space of said baffle is open on the outside of said peripheral wall.

Claim 19. (original) The coating apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said baffle is provided in said peripheral wall continuously inward.

Claim 20. (original) The coating apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said baffle is formed by bending a preset area of said peripheral wall inward.

Claim 21. (original) The coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least one of cooling means and heating means is disposed on the outside of the peripheral wall of said rotating drum.

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Claim 22. (original) The coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the peripheral wall of said rotating drum is formed in a polygonal tube shape.

Claim 23. (original) The coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one end of said rotating drum is covered by a part of casing to which a third air duct is attached, with sealing means for providing a seal between said one end and said part of casing.

Claim 24. (previously presented) The coating apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said sealing means is a labyrinth seal.

Claim 25. (currently amended) A coating apparatus including a ventilated rotating drum in which granules to be processed are accommodated and which is driven to rotate around its axial line, characterized in that

said rotating drum includes one end and the other end along the direction of the axial line and a peripheral wall that connects said one end and said other end, said other end being located on the side of a rotary drive mechanism for driving said rotating drum;

said one end and said other end are respectively provided with an air vent, one of which constitutes an air inlet for supplying process gas from outside into said rotating drum, and the other one of which constitutes an air outlet for exhausting the process gas from inside said rotating drum to the outside; and

the process gas supplied into said rotating drum through said air inlet is passed through a

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layer of the granules inside said rotating drum and exhausted from said air outlet.

wherein one end of said rotating drum is covered by a part of casing to which a ~~third~~ an air duct is attached, with sealing means for providing a seal between said one end and said part of casing.

Claim 26. (previously presented) The coating apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said sealing means is a labyrinth seal.

Claim 27. (previously presented) A coating apparatus including a ventilated rotating drum in which granules to be processed are accommodated and which is driven to rotate around its axial line, characterized in that

said rotating drum includes one end and the other end along the direction of the axial line and a peripheral wall that connects said one end and said other end, said other end being located on the side of a rotary drive mechanism for driving said rotating drum;

said one end and said other end are respectively provided with an air vent, one of which constitutes an air inlet for supplying process gas from outside into said rotating drum, and the other one of which constitutes an air outlet for exhausting the process gas from inside said rotating drum to the outside; and

the process gas supplied into said rotating drum through said air inlet is passed through a layer of the granules inside said rotating drum and exhausted from said air outlet.

wherein the other end of said rotating drum is connected to a hollow drive shaft of the rotary

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drive mechanism for driving said rotating drum, and granule products inside said rotating drum are discharged to the outside through inside said hollow drive shaft.

Claim 28. (previously presented) The coating apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said hollow drive shaft is provided with an open/close lid for opening and closing an opening at one shaft end facing the inside of said rotating drum.

Claim 29. (new) The coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the process gas supplied into said rotating drum through said air inlet passes through an entire area of said layer of the granules inside said rotating drum.